

AN OFFERING OF LETTERS



Christian Reformed
CENTRE FOR Public Dialogue

An offering of letters is an opportunity for members of your congregation to respond to God's call to do justice by signing a letter to their Member of Parliament on an important social issue. We are working with the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, who have been diligently working for years to advocate for equitable services for First Nations children, particularly child welfare services. We offer God our voices and hands to do his work of justice. Get the advocacy letter (<https://bit.ly/OfferingofLetters>), ready for you to download and print off for your congregation's offering of letters.

How to lead an offering of letters:

1. **Talk** with your pastor, council, or leadership team to get permission and support for your idea.
2. **Let people know** about letter-signing opportunity ahead of time, through an announcement in your church bulletin, website, or Facebook page. Here's a draft announcement you can use: First Nations children and youth in Canada receive less funding from the Canadian Government for public services like education, child welfare, and health services than other children in Canada enjoy. Next week you are invited to participate in an offering of letters to advocate for equity for First Nations children and youth. You can learn more about this issue on the Christian Reformed Centre for Public Dialogue's website (crcna.org/publicdialogue/issues/indigenous-justice). Talk to (insert name of person organizing the offering of letters here) if you'd like more information.
3. **Print** off enough copies of the advocacy letter for your congregation, and look up the names of your area Members of Parliament.
4. When the day of your offering of letters comes, **set up** a table at your church, perhaps in the foyer or fellowship hall where many people will be able to see it. Here's what you'll want to have on the table: the letters, pens, any information from this website that you think congregational members may find helpful (if they weren't able to read it before the service).

5. **Announce** the advocacy opportunity during your church service and invite people to participate by coming to the table you've set up to sign a letter.
6. **Stand by** your table to help people fill in their MP's name at the top of the letter, any personal note they'd like to add at the bottom of the letter, and their name and address. A name and address must be provided so that the MP knows that the person advocating lives in their riding.
7. **Gather** the letters and send them to the appropriate MPs!
8. **Report back.** Tell your congregation how many letters were signed, and send us a note (and a picture, if you have one) at publicdialogue@crcna.org so that we can celebrate with you!

